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Director's Speaker Series

LAURA DUGAN

"Efforts to Control Terrorism in the Middle East"

Monday, September 16, 2013, 12:30PM
 Mershon Center for International Security Studies
 1501 Neil Ave. Columbus, OH 43201

[Click here to see Dugan's PowerPoint presentation.](#)

Laura Dugan is associate professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at University of Maryland. Her research examines the consequences of violence and the efficacy of violence prevention/intervention policy and practice.

Dugan is co-principal investigator for two important event-based datasets: the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) and the Government Actions in Terrorist Environments (GATE) dataset.

She received her doctorate in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University in 1999; her master's in statistics from Carnegie Mellon University in 1998, her master's in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University in 1995; and her bachelor's in applied media arts from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 1987.

Abstract

When considering counterterrorism, most imagine policies aimed at punishing terrorists and deterring potential terrorist acts. This is understandable because repressive policies attract media attention and help politicians get reelected. Yet, after only a brief consideration we

quickly realize that decisions to commit terrorist acts are likely sensitive to a wider range of government actions — not just the repressive ones.

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This presentation describes efforts by Laura Dugan and Erica Chenoweth to document all actions Middle Eastern governments take that are directed toward terrorist organizations or their constituencies resulting in the Government Actions in Terror Environments (GATE) database. I present a brief overview of GATE data collected from five countries, an analysis of Israel and the Palestinian conflict based on a refreshing perspective of rational choice theory, and preliminary findings from three other countries.

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